

A NEW SPECIES OF *AMPLYPTERUS* FROM
THE CHISOS MOUNTAINS, TEXAS
(LEPIDOPTERA: SPHINGIDAE)

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Abstract.—*Ampllypterus blanchardorum*, new species, is described from the Chisos Mountains, Texas. It is differentiated from its nearest allies, *A. donysa* (Druce) and *A. globifer* Dyar. This is the first record of the genus *Ampllypterus* from the United States.

André Blanchard (1973: 103) incorrectly reported *Ampllypterus donysa* (Druce) as a new U.S. record for the genus and species from Big Bend National Park. In early June 1973, I had an opportunity to work in the same area and collected additional specimens of the same species. Some time after my return I tried to associate them with *A. donysa* and found that they differed from *donysa* and from *Ampllypterus globifer* Dyar, another closely similar species, both from Central America. Subsequently, I have studied genital preparations of the three species and have found differences in these characters. Thus, I feel warranted in proposing a name for this showy, and apparently extremely uncommon, moth resident of the United States.

The 11 described species of *Ampllypterus* occur variously from Mexico (Tampico and Baja California), Cuba, and Hispaniola south to Argentina (Schreiber, 1978: 47).

My limited observation (three specimens on two nights) on the species may indicate why it has been infrequently collected. It appears to be attracted to black light on the bright side of dusk. When D. C. Ferguson (Systematic Entomology Lab., USDA, Washington, D.C.) and I had set up our sheets with the lights going before dusk, moths came to the sheets. As the light decreased, no specimens were seen. Additional observation of the species is needed before any generalization about its attraction to light can be made.

It gives me great pleasure to name this species after André and May Elise Blanchard who first collected it and who have added so much to our knowledge of the Lepidoptera of Texas.

Ampllypterus blanchardorum Hodges, NEW SPECIES

Figs. 1-16

Description.—Color pattern as in Figs. 1 and 4. Upper surface of forewing mainly gray green, extreme base pale yellowish gray, lunule dark greenish brown, posterior margin just beyond medial line bluish gray; base of hindwing red be-



1



2



3

Figs. 1-3. Maculation of *Amplypterus* species. 1, *A. blanchardorum*, holotype male. 2, *A. donysa*, male. 3, *A. globifer*, holotype male.

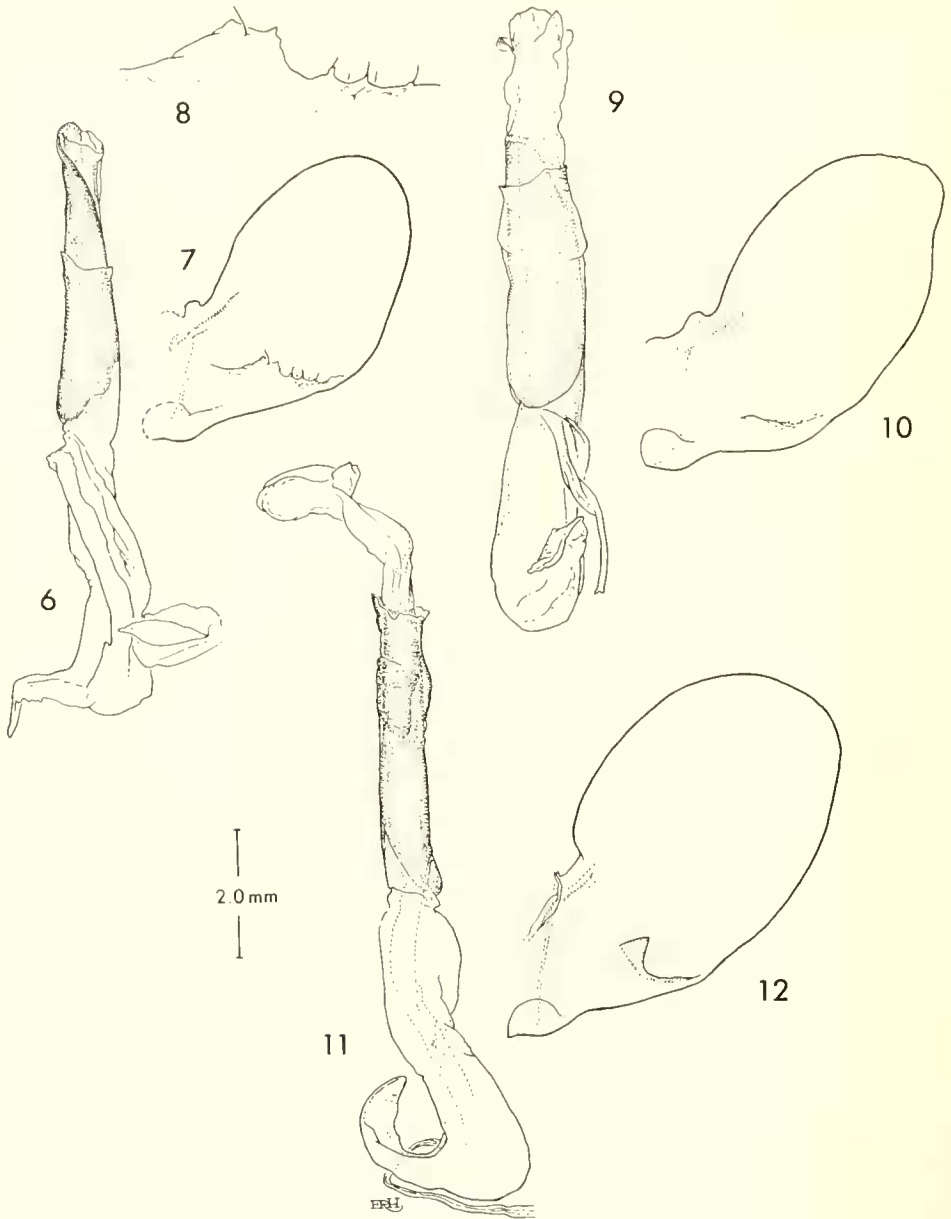


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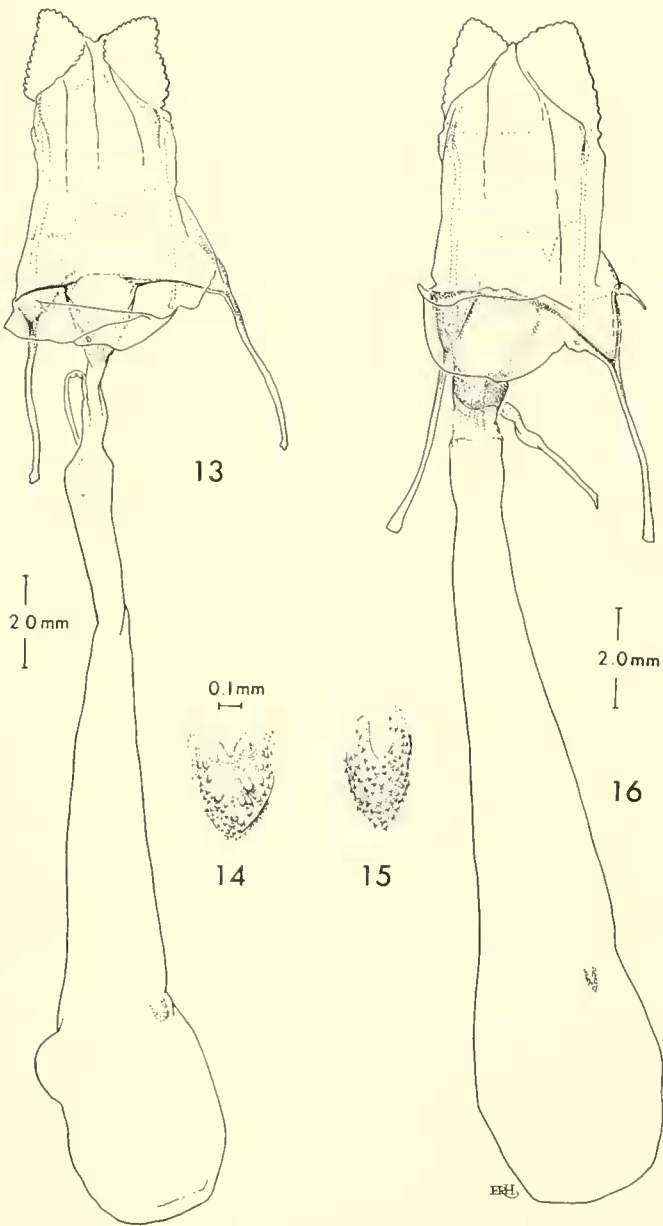
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Figs. 4-5. Maculation of *Amplypterus* species. 4, *A. blanchardorum*, paratype female. 5, *A. donysa*, female.



Figs. 6-12. Male genitalia of *Amplypterus* species. 6-8, *A. blanchardorum*: 6, aedeagus, 7, right valva, 8, enlargement of sacculus. 9, 10, *A. donysa*: 9, aedeagus, 10, right valva. 11, 12, *A. globifer*: 11, aedeagus, 12, right valva.

coming paler toward outer margin, dark mark in anal area dark greenish brown, immediately preceded and followed by pale yellowish gray. Ventral surface of wings mainly pale grayish green with yellow or gold cast at anal angles, forewing pale red from near base to half wing length medially. Head mainly pale yellowish gray, labial palpus greenish brown on ventral surface, a greenish-brown zone from



Figs. 13-16. Female genitalia of *Amplypterus* species. 13-14, *A. blanchardorum*: 13, genitalia, 14, enlargement of signum. 15-16, *A. dorysa*: 15, enlargement of signum, 16, genitalia.

base of antenna to vertex. Thorax pale yellowish gray dorsally, dark areas greenish brown. Abdomen greenish brown followed by pale yellowish gray then pale grayish green, a faint medial line on segments 2-6. Legs with coxa, trochanter, and femur concolorous with ventral surface of thorax; tibia and tarsus pale grayish yellow with pink cast. Wing length: ♂, 43-45 mm; ♀, 49-53 mm. Genitalia as in Figs. 6-8, 13, 14.

Types.—Holotype: ♂; Texas, Brewster Co., Chisos Mts., Panther Pass, 6000'; 4 June 1973; R. W. Hodges. USNM. Paratypes: 1♂, 1♀; Texas, Brewster Co., Chisos Mts., Green Gulch, 5500'; R. W. Hodges. 1♂; same locality, 5400'; 13 May 1972; J. G. Franclemont. 3♂, 1♀; same locality; 3, 6, 12 May 1972, 2 June 1973; A. & M. E. Blanchard. BMNH, USNM.

Discussion.—*Amplipterus blanchardorum* can be separated from *donyssa* and *globifer* by the combination of characters: In *blanchardorum* the upper surface of the forewing has the medial line continuous, extending to the posterior margin and the antemedial line running to the medial line; the hindwing has a dark greenish-brown mark in the anal area followed, toward the apex, by a diffuse area of dark-gray, almost black scales. In *donyssa* the forewing (Figs. 2, 5) has the antemedial and medial lines extending to the posterior margin; the hindwing has the greenish-brown mark followed by black scales in a distinct pattern that extends along the veins to the margin. In *globifer* (Fig. 3) the forewing has the medial line incomplete, not reaching the posterior margin and the antemedial line running to the medial line; the hindwing is similar to that of *blanchardorum*. In the male genitalia of *blanchardorum* (Figs. 6–8) the costal margin of the valva is nearly evenly rounded from the base to the apex; the sacculus is developed as a short ridge with setae or setal bases on the terminal margin. In *donyssa* (Figs. 9, 10) the valva is evenly rounded; the sacculus is scarcely developed as a slight fold. In *globifer* (Figs. 11, 12) the costal margin of the valva is straight at the base then abruptly arched and curved to the apex; the sacculus is well developed as a flange that lacks setae or setal bases. The female of *blanchardorum* (Figs. 13, 14) has the base of the ductus bursae narrow, less than half the width of the ostium bursae; the signum is broadly arrow shaped and has large and small, narrowly conical, inwardly directed projections. In *donyssa* (Figs. 15, 16) the base of the ductus bursae is broad, about $\frac{2}{3}$ the width of the ostium bursae; the signum is more narrowly arrow shaped, and the inwardly directed cones are evenly graduated from short to very short. The female of *globifer* is unknown. The immature stages of *blanchardorum* are unknown.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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